



SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point to 5.8 percent from August 2002 to September 2002. The MSA's September 2002 unemployment rate is three-tenths of a percentage point higher than Idaho's rate of 5.5 percent and two-tenths of a percentage point higher than the U.S. rate of 5.6 percent.

From September 2001, the MSA's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate jumped 1.1 percent. *Civilian Labor Force* was down 1.5 percent and total employment fell 2.4 percent. The number of people unemployed rose 15.9 percent, which drove the large increase in the unemployment rate. However, the MSA's unemployment rate was near the middle of the range for unemployment rates of all the Southeast Idaho counties, which ranged from a low of 3.4 percent in Bingham County to a high of 7.8 percent in Power County. Southeast Idaho Table 2 shows the September 2002 seasonally adjusted labor force figures for all counties in Southeast Idaho.

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

	Sept 2002*	Aug 2002	Sept 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	40,210	39,720	40,820	1.2	-1.5
Unemployment	2,330	2,250	2,010	3.6	15.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.8	5.7	4.9		
Total Employment	37,880	37,470	38,810	1.1	-2.4
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	40,040	39,070	40,640	2.5	-1.5
Unemployment	2,050	2,170	1,730	-5.5	18.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.1	5.6	4.3		
Total Employment	37,990	36,900	39,910	3.0	-4.8
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	32,770	31,660	33,200	3.5	-1.3
Goods-Producing Industries	4,420	4,510	4,470	-2.0	-1.1
Mining & Construction	1,740	1,830	1,830	-4.9	-4.9
Manufacturing	2,680	2,680	2,640	0.0	1.5
Service-Producing Industries	28,360	27,160	28,730	4.4	-1.3
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	1,820	1,800	1,810	1.1	0.6
Wholesale Trade	1,350	1,310	1,400	3.1	-3.6
Retail Trade	6,420	6,540	6,650	-1.8	-3.5
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,830	1,810	1,700	1.1	7.6
Services	8,250	8,450	8,200	-2.4	0.6
Government Administration	3,460	3,590	3,560	-3.6	-2.8
Government Education	5,230	3,660	5,390	42.9	-3.0

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Southeast Idaho Table 2: September 2002
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures

County	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Bear Lake	2,794	139	5	2,655
Bingham	22,226	763	3.4	21,463
Caribou	3,248	230	7.1	3,018
Franklin	5,208	212	4.1	4,996
Oneida	1,769	65	3.7	1,704
Power	3,229	252	7.8	2,977

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs increased 3.5 percent (1,110 jobs) in September 2002 over August 2002, mainly because schools opened for the 2002-2003 season. Jobs in the *Goods-Producing Industries* declined 2.0 percent (90 jobs) in September, and all those job losses occurred in *Construction*. The number of jobs in *Manufacturing* was unchanged from August to September 2002. Jobs in the *Service-Producing Industries* increased 4.4 percent (1,200

jobs) in September, and most job gains were in *Government Education* (1,570 jobs). Small job gains occurred in *Transportation, Communications & Utilities* (20), *Wholesale Trade* (40), and *Finance, Insurance & Real Estate* (20). *Retail Trade*, *Services*, and *Government Administration* dropped 1.8 percent, 2.4 percent, and 3.6 percent, respectively, in September. These normal reductions occurred because of the transition from the busy summer season to fall's slower labor pattern. *Retail Trade* lost 120 jobs as it moved from its busy summer and pre-school season to a cool-down period before the busy holiday season begins. *Services* lost 200 jobs as the season transitioned from tourism and recreation, and experienced normal reductions in *Hotels and Other Lodging Establishments*. *Business Services* experienced a drop as temporary summer jobs were eliminated, and *Government Administration* (-130) reduced summer parks and recreation jobs. Job reductions were most pronounced in *Food Stores, Eating and Drinking Establishments*, and *Building Materials, Garden Supplies & Hardware Stores*, but most categories in *Retail Trade* showed at least some reductions. The one exception was *Automotive Dealers*, whose employment increased because dealer incentives offered extremely attractive interest rates on car purchases.

From September 2001, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* declined by 430, a 1.3 percent decrease. The *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 50 jobs over the year. *Construction* lost 90 jobs while *Manufacturing*, surprisingly, held its own and

added 40 jobs. *Manufacturing's* increase in *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* sends a mixed signal because the Astaris closure affected so many jobs. However, this analysis includes only the Pocatello MSA, which is Bannock County. The job losses at Astaris, while devastating to the economy, are counted in Power County. While these job losses do not show up in this *Nonfarm Payroll Job* analysis, they contributed to increased unemployment in Bannock and Power Counties. The *Service-Producing Industries* lost 370 jobs from September 2001 to September 2002. Job losses occurred in *Retail Trade* (-230 jobs), *Government Administration* (-100 jobs), *Government Education* (-160 jobs), and *Wholesale Trade* (-50 jobs). The national economic recession has hit the *Retail Trade* sector particularly hard as consumers have scaled back purchases. Reduced corporate and personal income taxes have reduced Idaho tax receipts and several holdbacks have reduced jobs in *Government Administration* and *Government Education*.

SPECIAL TOPIC

Census 2000 – Area Labor Force Characteristics

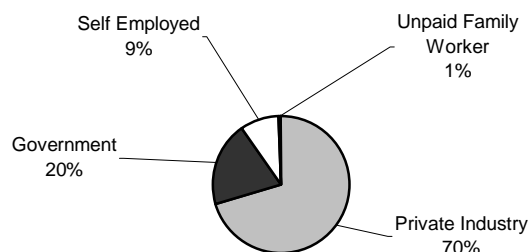
Data released by the U.S. Census Bureau from the 2000 census provides important information about the area's labor force. Southeast Idaho's population of people 16 years old and over (potential labor force) was 111,543 in April 2000. Of that population group, 66 percent, or nearly 74,000 people, were in the labor force, either employed or unemployed. Census data also gives us work characteristics of the employed labor force such as labor force by class of worker, labor force by industry, and labor force by occupation.

In Southeast Idaho, more than 45,000 people work in private industry, as shown in Southeast Idaho Chart 1. *Government*, which includes federal, state, and local government, employs nearly 14,000 workers. Government employment is high in Southeast Idaho because of the location of Idaho State University, the Women's Correctional Facility, and FBI Western Region Computer Center in Pocatello, and because a large portion of the land in Southeast Idaho is owned and maintained by the federal government.

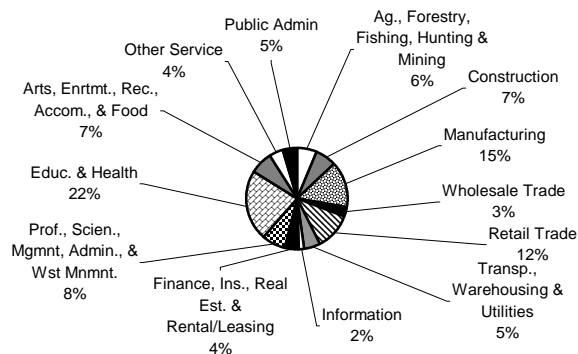
There are thirteen industrial divisions, as shown in Southeast Idaho Chart 2. Southeast Idaho enjoys excellent diversity with significant employment in most industries and at least some employment in each division. The *Education* and *Healthcare* industries employ the largest number of workers in the area and provide jobs for more than 15,000 workers. *Manufacturing* follows with just over 10,000 people employed in that industry.

Southeast Idaho Chart 3 shows the percentage of workers employed in each of the six occupational categories. As in the industrial characteristics, Southeast Idaho enjoys excellent diversity in the occupations it provides for workers. Every category, except *Farming, Fishing & Forestry*, provides significant opportunities for workers. *Managerial, Professional & Related* occupations

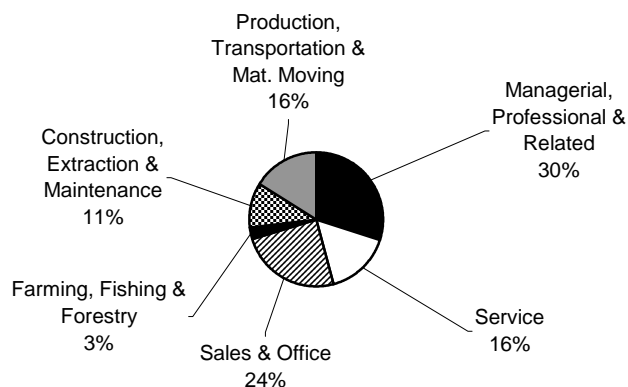
Southeast Idaho Chart 1: Labor Force by Class of Worker



Southeast Idaho Chart 2: Labor Force by Industrial Division



Southeast Idaho Chart 3: Labor Force by Occupation



lead employment with nearly 21,000 workers employed in that group. The large *Education* and *Healthcare* industries contribute to the high level of *Managerial, Professional, & Related* occupations in Southeast Idaho.

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